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# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 8 - 14

### God Is Partial

Again and again throughout biblical history, God is partial to caring for the poor, the weak, and the outcast. Which is why, perhaps, Jesus' response to the Syrophenician woman takes us by surprise: "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs" (Mark 7:27).

The Syrophenician woman acts in faith. She engages Jesus with what she believes to be true about him: that through him God's mercy will extend even to her. Despite the distinctions that separate them (including race, gender, and religion), she believes Jesus is a Savior who has the power to heal all people and that she, although not a Jew, is a member of the household of God.

The second reading, from James, reminds hearers then and now that the Christian community's actions are to be shaped by God's partiality. God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith. While the world values the rich, the poor are God's own treasure, made honored guests and royal heirs through baptism. The community is called to a partiality based on God's values, not the world's.

The waters of baptism wash away all distinctions. Like streams breaking forth in the desert, these waters surprise us with mercy in unexpected places. These waters open our eyes, unstop our ears, and loose our tongues to see, hear, and speak God's partiality for the poor, the weak, and the outcast. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, the Spirit fills us with faith—a faith active in showing mercy that knows no limits.

Around the table, rich and poor, haughty and humble, all who gather receive a feast fit for the family of God. All are honored and all are fed, because the Lord is the maker of them all.

**Guest Book:** If you are visiting Salem today, we welcome you and invite you to sign our guest book, located in the Narthex, and we hope to see you again!

**THIS WEEKS TEXTS**

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
Psalm 146  
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37



**NEXT WEEKS TEXTS**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

Each week we will lift up five church families/ members in prayer. THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Karen and Justine Stensrude, Spencer Stensrude, Al Sterrenberg, Brian, Karen, Summer, Hannah and Tori Sterrenberg

This week the following members will be celebrating their birthdays and we would like to wish them a HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Please call the office if you have an upcoming birthday, to ensure we have it in our records. 641.592.1771

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|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 8-Griffin McCord    | 9-Betsy Byars    | 10-Kendall Dahle |
| 8-Joni Anderson     | 9-Braylon Hanson | 10-Daniel White  |
| 8-Kadence Henderson | 9-Brian Throne   | 10-Krystle Foley |

**-WEEKLY GIVING-**

<b>LAST SUNDAY:</b> 9/1/24:	\$ 2,448
<b>YEAR-TO-DATE:</b> 9/3/24:	\$ 132,846
<b>LAST YEAR:</b> as of 9/3/23:	\$ 124,005
<b>DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE:</b>	\$ 8,841

**Last Weeks Attendance**

55

**Memorials Given In August:** Lloyd Okland—Steeple Project \$40, Building Fund \$100, Cemetery Fund \$80, General fund \$45

**Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update:** Total received as of 9/3/24 **\$165,837**  
Total available balance as of 7/31/24 **\$57,549.32** All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the “Steeple Project” in the memo when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

**Upcoming Blood Drive:** September 19; 1:00pm-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall  
Appointments Are Encouraged. Call: 800-287-4903 or Text: LIFESERVE to 999-7777 or visit: [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org)

**Fall Salad Luncheon at Salem:** Sept. 19; 11:00am-2:00pm in the chapel/lounge area. Speaker: Nancy Jewell, **Freedom Inn His Grace**. Nancy is the executive director and founder of Freedom Inn His Grace Ministry. She is a registered nurse, employed for over 40 years at Mercy One North Iowa retiring this past March, to be full time in supporting day to day operations of the ministry and the launch of the **Beacon Hope Shones Here**-low barrier warming shelter. [www.freedominnhisgrace.org](http://www.freedominnhisgrace.org) Nancy completed her Masters in Non-Profit Management and Leadership to provide her with the education and platform to build the ministry program of which was accomplished. Come and hear her speak and enjoy fellowship with other women in our area. Her testimony is uplifting and inspiring. **Please make a reservation with Margaret Okland at 641-590-2891 by September 16<sup>th</sup>** to join us for our Fall Salad Luncheon.

**Noisy Offering Update:** We collected a total of \$362.53 for those affected by the floods in northwestern IA. This will be sent to the Clay County Community Foundation Disaster Recovery Unit. Thanks to everyone that donated!

**Prayer Shawls**, hand knit or crocheted by Salem members, are available in the Narthex for you to wrap someone in need. A Prayer Shawl is for anyone in need of prayer, hope, comfort and love of a community. If you would like the person included in the prayer chain, please call the office.

**Prayer Chain Ministry** is a network of people who are committed to prayer and will take action on behalf of others. If you will pray for those in need, sign-up in the Narthex. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call the office and the prayer request will get sent out. If there is no answer, leave a message. All requests will be confidential among the prayer chain ministry. Thank you!

**Celebrating Generosity: Thank you for your support of ministry at Salem!**

**Go Green—Go Paperless by giving in one of the following ways...**

-- Give through PayPal or Card by going to the bottom of [www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com)

-- **Give automatically through the Simply Giving Program.** Sign up for monthly or weekly ACH withdrawals. Call the office to have a form sent to you or stop by the office. We also have forms in the Narthex. Please return forms to the office.

**(We are charged a much lower service fee through the Simply Giving Program)**

**Faith Formation Volunteers Needed:** The Youth Board is making weekly plans for music, activities, games and crafts, BUT...we need YOUR HELP to make this year a success! Please consider donating your time to supervise and interact with our children. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin across from the chapel. No planning or experience necessary, a youth board member will be leading.

**Retired Senior Volunteer Program:** Reading Buddy pairs one volunteer to one student to read and practice literacy skills. The program at Lake Mills Elementary currently serves kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. Volunteers typically served one day per week for approximately an hour. Teachers provide all the necessary materials. The volunteer reads, works on slight words, literacy games, etc. and helps the student form a positive relationship around reading and also becomes a trusted, caring adult in their life. Lake Mills hopes to add MORE classrooms this year, so please tell a friend! To sign up, please call 641-422-4304 or visit [www.niacc.edu/rsvp](http://www.niacc.edu/rsvp) to enroll. All volunteers will be provided orientation and training in Lake Mills so they feel confident and ready to help students have a successful experience.

**Understanding Grief and Loss Support Group** is an adult support group that will provide grief education and support to individuals who've experienced the death of a family member or friend. This group is sponsored by MercyOne North Iowa Hospice. The next scheduled group is: 5 Monday evenings; Sept. 30th – Oct. 28th 5:30 - 7:00 PM in the MercyOne North Iowa Hospice Conference Room (232 2nd St SE, Mason City). There is no charge for this group, but space is limited. Call 641-428-6267 to register.

**“One Year to Live” Men’s Retreat:** Registration is now open for this event. The retreat is set for Nov. 1-3 at Camp Ewalu, Strawberry Point. The retreat is an opportunity for men of all ages to rethink how they set their priorities & discover how God has equipped them to live. It is led by lay members and presented by Lutheran Men in Mission, in partnership with the NEIA Synod & Camp Ewalu. Cost is \$175 for those who register by Oct. 7. After that date, the rate is \$200, due by Oct. 21. Lodging, six meals and materials are included. To download the brochure/ registration form and to register online, visit [www.neiasynod.org/oytl](http://www.neiasynod.org/oytl)

**Worship Volunteers:** If you are willing to usher, acolyte, read or sing in the liturgical choir, please sign up in the Narthex. If you would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, call the office. Thank you!

**A Gathering Of Faithful Men** will be held Sept. 28th at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato. This year's special guest is Michael Franzese. He is an American former mobster who was a caporegime in the Colombo crime family. He went from the Godfather to God the Father. There will be music, ministry and breakfast. Tickets are \$25. Space is limited so call 800-810-5559 or go online to KinshipRadio.org to register beginning Mon. August 26th at 8am.

**Salem's Clothes Closet** is open every Monday from 2:00-4:00pm; and can be accessed at the south entrance. Clothes, shoes, boots, coats, jackets and a few other kids' items are available for free. We also accept donations; please make sure donations are folded and have no holes, tears or stains. Donations can be left inside the south entrance anytime.

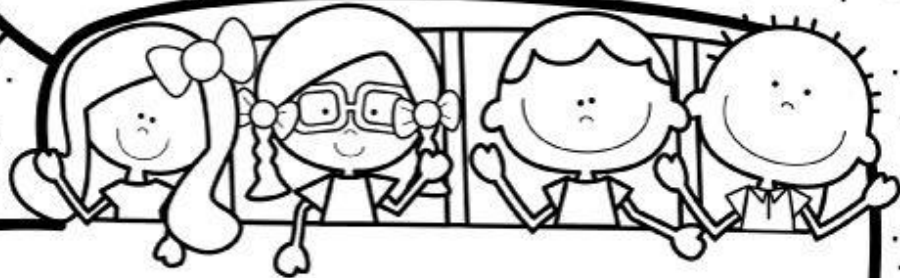


**The Lake Mills Food Shelf** is open 2:00-5:00pm every Monday for anyone in need of additional food. The only criteria for eligibility is to reside within the Lake Mills School District. The Food Shelf is located at Salem and can be accessed at the south entrance. Anyone in need of food when the food shelf is not open, please feel free to call and leave a message at 641-592-1771 and someone will call back.

**Live Stream Sponsorship** Cost is \$40. Call the church office to reserve your date.  
**Dates available 2024:** Oct 20. Nov 24. Dec 29.

**Dates available 2025:** Jan 5, 19, 26, Feb 9, 16, 23, March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 20, May 4, June 8, 15, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Sept 14, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Dec 7, 28

# BACK TO SCHOOL



fun ♥ friends ♥ learn ♥ grow ♥ play ♥ share ♥ solve





# RALLY SUNDAY

**ALL ARE INVITED TO STAY FOR RALLY SUNDAY  
GAMES & FOOD ON THE SOUTH LAWN**

## **SUNDAY 9/8**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Ken Jensen) Blessing of the backpacks  
10:00am Rally Sunday-Food and Games on the South Lawn (everyone welcome)

## **MONDAY 9/9**

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters-Fellowship Hall  
2:00pm-4:00pm Salem's Clothes Closet is OPEN  
2:00pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN

## **WEDNESDAY 9/11**

10:00am Bible Study-Choir Room  
6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

## **THURSDAY 9/12**

9:00am Fine Arts Guild-Lounge  
10:30am-Life & Growth Board Meeting-Choir Room  
6:30pm Church Council Meeting-Library

## **SUNDAY 9/15**

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Pastor Judy Wozniak)  
10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall  
10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

**Salem Office: 592.1771** Monday-Friday 9:30am-1:30pm  
(Hours subject to change. Feel free to call the office to ensure its open.)

Visit us at [www.salemlakemills.com](http://www.salemlakemills.com)  
Facebook: Search Salem Lake Mills